

**System and Method for Rule-Pen Based Conversations in  
Synchronous Collaborative Environment**

**ABSTRACT**

A system and method for rule-pen based conversations  
5 in a synchronous collaborative environment is presented. A  
plurality of users participates in an online collaborative  
discussion. A first participant has a comment, such as a  
question, and does not know the other participants' skill  
sets. The first participant selects a rule pen that  
10 includes an associated rule. The first participant's  
client includes the rule and a comment in a message, and  
sends the message to a server. The server identifies  
qualified participants that meet the rule criteria, and  
forwards the message to the qualified participants. The  
15 qualified participants may modify the rule, and respond to  
the message accordingly.